



FREEDOM WATCH



July 15, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Pentagon warns of China threat

WASHINGTON — China is honing “credible options” to attack Taiwan and could act with scant warning against what it sees as a U.S.-backed rogue province. The Defense Department said Friday that China feared that Taiwan’s permanent separation from the mainland could serve as a strategic foothold for the United States. At the same time, winning control over the self-governing island of 23 million people would let China move its defensive perimeter further out as it seeks to curb U.S. regional clout.

Milan antiterror police arrest 8

MILAN, Italy — Eight men were arrested Thursday for allegedly supplying fake passports and documents to members of Osama bin

See **BRIEFS**, Page 3

ERSQ team link to survival in the zone

By Spc. Erica Leigh Foley
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Superman has qualities that would come in extremely useful in a combat zone. He could fly into remote places when an aircraft goes down, ward off the enemy and save lives by getting the injured to the hospital before it’s too late.

Teamwork is an amazing thing. Things that one person can’t do on his own, unless he was Superman, can be accomplished using a team of tightly knit airmen who have a common goal. That’s exactly what the U.S. Air Force 66th Expeditionary Rescue Squadron is and does.

“Our mission is to provide combat search and rescue,” said Col. John Taylor, director of



Courtesy photo
The Airmen of 66th ERSQ perform their first HALO drop at Cunningham Landing Zone.

operations, 66th ERSQ. “In the event an aircraft goes down, we prepare to rescue.”

The ingredients for this rescue recipe involve six different men: pilot,

co-pilot, flight engineer, two para-rescue jumpers and a gunner. The pilot’s job is to get the Airmen to where they need to be, but he doesn’t do that without the help of the

others.

The co-pilot helps the pilot with whatever situation comes up. It’s a learning experience, said Taylor.

“Most of the co-pilots are young guys who are growing into the pilot position,” he said.

The flight engineer is the main systems expert. He monitors the systems and runs the checklists. This vital piece of the pie also does the preflight and makes sure everything is properly working so the mission goes as smoothly as possible.

“Our job is complex, but simply put, we fix aircraft that saves lives,” said Staff Sgt. Jamie Betts.

Although Superman doesn’t shoot bullets, this rescue team can. The gunner, who is qualified on numerous weapons,

See **ERSQ**, Page 2

Mortuary affairs: no easy undertaking

By Spc. Erica Leigh Foley
28th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — “I was in my car listening to the radio when I heard about the planes crashing into the Twin Towers on Sept. 11. Right then, I automatically knew that we would be on our way to

Ground Zero,” said Spc. Ray Dukes, Mortuary Affairs specialist, 54th Quartermaster Company, Fort Lee, Va., currently stationed in Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan.

That day, he was put on alert. He packed his equipment and was ready to go wherever his country needed him. The next day he stood in front of the

Pentagon.

He said the fire was still burning and plane fragments were being extracted from the rubble.

“The first thing I remember seeing was a big hole in the Pentagon and that’s when it hit me ... this is real,” Dukes said.

See **MORTUARY**, Page 2



Photo by Spc. Erica Leigh Foley

Spc. Ray Dukes, Mortuary Affairs specialist, 54th Quartermaster Company, displays a case used to transport deceased servicemembers.

MORTUARY, from Page 1

After being warned about the asbestos, he geared up in a white plastic and paper disposable suit. The young Texan started his first real-world mission.

Standing 20 feet away from the torn-down building, he and three of his teammates began a litter carry into the building. Sometimes the remains would already be in bags, ready to be escorted to the refrigerated truck nearby with a chaplain ready to say a prayer.

Although some had a hard time dealing with all the death and destruction that came with the attacks, Dukes knew he had a job to do.

"I knew that was the day that would determine if I could actually handle this job," he said.

The time he was on Ground Zero he searched for bodies. Volunteers, the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation personnel would remove the large pieces of rubble, and others would look through the smaller pieces for body parts.

"We were looking for anything from hair to fingers," Dukes explained.

When a part was found, it would be protected in a red bag, refrigerated, tagged with an identification

number and then shipped to Dover Air Force Base, Md.

Mortuary affairs not only provides search and recovery, they receive, process, prepare and ship remains from combat zones.

If a servicemember dies, his remains are brought to mortuary affairs. The remains would be identified with their name, rank and unit, said Sgt. Jennifer O'Neil. She explained that their personal items are listed, and put in a plastic bag next to the remains in a transfer case. The body is packed in the transfer case with 40 pounds of ice to slow the decomposition, and shipped as soon as possible.

Although the Mortuary Affairs specialist may learn embalming and organ extraction through on-the-job training, much of what they do is preparatory.

"Our main mission is to be ready when remains come in," O'Neil said.

She said she hasn't seen any remains while stationed at K2.

"Business is slow and that's good," O'Neil said.

The importance of their job is clear, whether they are in the U.S. or in a combat zone.

"We help bring closure to families when we recover remains. I know that is what I would want," Dukes said.

ERQS, from Page 1

not only shoots the rounds, he maintains the precious commodity too.

"Their main job is to protect the air crew members and the patient whether it's a civilian or a soldier," Taylor said.

The para-jumpers also add their unique qualities to the team. They are certified in SCUBA, High Altitude, Low Opening, and Emergency Medical Technician.

"I am a para-rescue jumper, our mission is to rescue pilots anytime, anyplace" said one of the PJs, who would like to be referred to as Staff Sgt. Mike. "This is a chance to do good. Instead of being the soldier who takes lives, we maintain life. We are the first link to their survival."

Part of being a medic, Mike said, is having to put emotions aside until the mission is accom-

plished.

"At the time, you don't have time to be happy or sad, you just deal with the medical needs. Afterward, you thank God it went as good as it did," Mike said.

He continued to talk about the overall mission as a team and how important each member is.

The team has done over 30 missions here, and it is estimated that over 100 lives have been saved. This is the first time the 66th has run missions since Vietnam.

Mike said it was important for the people back home to know there are Airmen in combat zones willing to bring their family members back

"Everyone in the 66th has played a part in saving lives," he said. "We are all willing to sacrifice our lives to go out in the middle of nowhere to get someone else out."



Photo by Pfc. Matthew Acosta, 49th Public Affairs Detachment (Abn.)

Casing the Colors

Command Sgt. Maj. Michael White, MP, 519th MP Company, Fort Polk, La., prepares to Case the Colors during the Casing of the Colors ceremony, in preparation for the unit's redeployment, after a six-month tour at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan.

HIND SIGHT

1410

Poland and Lithuania defeat Teutonic Knights at Tannenberg.

1662

Charles II grants charter to establish Royal Society in London.

1815

Napoleon Bonaparte captured.

1869

Margarine is patented in Paris for use by French Navy.

1922

First duck-billed platypus publicly exhibited in U.S., at N.Y. zoo.

BRIEFS, from Page 1

Laden's al Qaeda network and a ninth suspect is being sought. Police seized false passports, stolen identity cards and blank documents that could be used to issue papers giving foreigners permission to live in Italy.

Coming soon: 'Ex-treme Dating'

HOLLYWOOD, California — Twentieth Television, Fox's syndication arm, will launch a regional test of the daily half-hour dating show "Ex-treme Dating". The show sends people out on their dream date with the person perfectly profiled to match, with the catch that throughout the date, two of the dreamboat's exes will be able to converse with and provide intimate details to the dream date.

Meeting between Palestinians, Israelis delayed

JERUSALEM — A high-level meeting between the Palestinians and Israelis that had been scheduled to take place Saturday night has been postponed for two days. The Palestinians — led by chief negotiator Saeb Erakat, Finance Minister Salam Fayed and Interior Minister Abdul Razak Yihiyeh — are to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Cabinet Minister Dan Naveh. The four met earlier this week in what were described as wide-ranging talks covering financial and political issues and other topics.

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

	Today	Sunday
<u>Bagram:</u>	Partly cloudy H: 95F L: 73F	Haze H: 91F L: 72F
<u>Khandahar:</u>	Haze H: 106F L: 75F	Haze H: 108F L: 77F
<u>Kabul:</u>	Showers H: 91F L: 70F	Haze H: 88F L: 68F
<u>Uzbekistan:</u>	Clear H: 99F L: 70F	Clear H: 99F L: 71F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

Freedom Watch falls under the supervision of the Combined Joint Task Force - 180.

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Visit the CENTCOM Website to see the latest editions of *Freedom Watch* at www.centcom.mil/operations/CJTF%20180/cjtf180.htm

Coalition SportsZone

The Day in Sports

Sluman cruises toward sixth career victory

Jeff Sluman fired a 3-under-par 68 for a four-stroke victory over Tim Herron and Steve Lowery in his second Greater Milwaukee Open championship.

His 23-under 261 total was one stroke shy of Loren Roberts' record set two years ago.

World Rankings

(as of July 7)

1. Tiger Woods USA	16.86
2. Phil Mickelson USA	10.84
3. Ernie Els SAf	7.48
4. Retief Goosen SAf	7.28
5. Sergio Garcia Spn	6.81
6. David Toms USA	6.05
7. Davis Love III USA	5.65
8. David Duval USA	5.38
9. Vijay Singh Fij	5.37
10. Padraig Harrington Ire	5.05
11. Jim Furyk USA	4.97
12. Nick Price Zim	4.87
13. Chris DiMarco USA	4.59
14. Darren Clarke Nir	4.36
15. Bob Estes USA	4.31
16. Michael Campbell NZI	4.31
17. Angel Cabrera Arg	4.27
18. Colin Montgomerie Sco	4.26
19. Rocco Mediate USA	4.05
20. Kenny Perry USA	3.94

2002 Senior Players Championship

Final round

1. Stewart Ginn	-14 F
2. Hubert Green	-13 F
2. Mike McCullough	-13 F
2. Jim Thorpe	-13 F
5. Doug Tewell	-10 F
6. Ed Dougherty	-9 F
6. Hale Irwin	-9 F
8. Larry Nelson	-8 F
8. Dave Stockton	-8 F
10. Tom Kite	-7 F
10. Fuzzy Zoeller	-7 F

PAR: 36-36—72

YARDS: 6,986

PURSE: \$2.5 million

SITE: TPC of Michigan, Dearborn, Michigan

2002 Major League standings

American League East			GB
N.Y. Yankees	57-34 .626	-	
Boston	53-36 .596	3	
Baltimore	43-46 .483	13	
American League Central			GB
Minnesota	53-40 .570	-	
Chicago (AL)	44-49 .473	9	
Cleveland	41-49 .456	10.5	
American League West			GB
Seattle	58-34 .630	-	
Anaheim	53-37 .589	4	
Oakland	53-39 .576	5	
National League East			GB
Atlanta	58-34 .630	-	
Montreal	48-43 .527	9.5	
N.Y. Mets	45-46 .495	12.5	
National League Central			GB
St. Louis	49-39 .557	-	
Cincinnati	47-44 .516	3.5	
Houston	44-46 .489	6	
National League West			GB
Arizona	54-36 .600	-	
Los Angeles	54-37 .593	0.5	
San Francisco	52-39 .571	2.5	

Today

Texas at Kansas City
 Seattle at Baltimore
 Chicago Sox at Cleveland
 Boston at Detroit
 NY Yankees at Toronto
 Philadelphia at Montreal
 Florida at NY Mets
 Oakland at Tampa Bay
 Cincinnati at Milwaukee
 Anaheim at Minnesota
 Atlanta at Chicago Cubs
 Pittsburgh at Houston
 Texas at Kansas City (2)
 Colorado at San Diego
 St. Louis at Los Angeles
 Arizona at San Francisco

Sunday

at Cleveland 10, NY Yankees 7
 at Toronto 6, Boston 5
 at NY Mets 4, Philadelphia 2
 Seattle 7, at Tampa Bay 6
 at Baltimore 6, Oakland 3
 at Montreal 10, Atlanta 3
 Chicago Sox 6, at Detroit 4
 at Kansas City 12, Anaheim 3
 at Milwaukee 5, Pittsburgh 3
 at Minnesota 5, Texas 4
 at Chicago Cubs 10, Florida 3
 Cincinnati 8, at Houston 3
 Colorado 5, at San Francisco 3
 St. Louis 4, at San Diego 1